

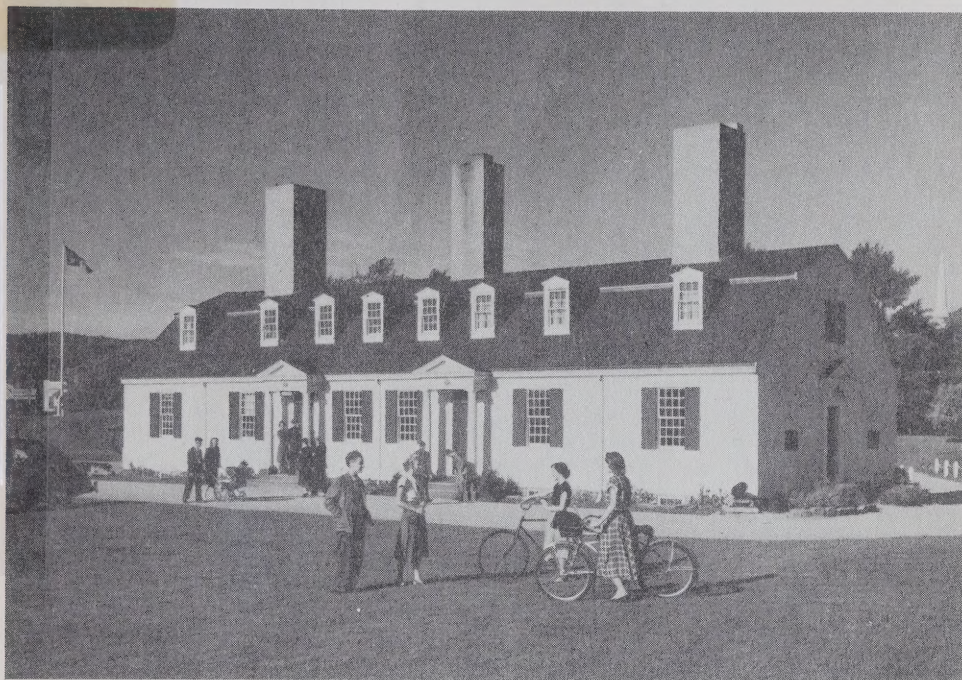
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Fort Anne National Historic Park

Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia
Canada



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Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

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Fort Anne National Historic Park

FORT ANNE occupied an important place in the early history of Canada, for around Port Royal, as it was originally known, centred the long struggle between the French and English for control of Acadia. The original Port Royal was captured and burned by the English in 1613, but Acadia was returned by treaty to the French in 1632. The French Governor, de Razilly, built a fort at the mouth of the La Have River, but on his death, his successor, d'Aulnay de Charnisay, removed the settlement to Port Royal. The new fort, built about 1635, was located on the present site of Fort Anne several miles east of the original Habitation and on the south shore of the Annapolis River. As the capital of Acadia, Port Royal for the next hundred years experienced a chequered career and changed hands many times before its final capitulation by the French to a New England force under Colonel Francis Nicholson in 1710. Nicholson changed the name from Port Royal to Annapolis Royal, in honour of the reigning sovereign of England, Queen Anne. The present Fort Anne is the outgrowth of two French fortifications built on the same site, and later additions made by the English.

In 1917 Fort Anne was placed under the care of the National Parks administration at Ottawa, and is now administered as a National Historic Park.

Visitors who enter the park by motor proceed via the reopened driveway, following its course through the remains of the glacis and parapet that protected the covered way, then over the stone arched bridge that crosses the moat to the east ravelin, one of the last ravelins to be built when the fortifications of Fort Anne were extended eastward and southward. From the ravelin the visitor proceeds on a causeway across the inner moat by the site of the former fort gates and follows the driveway to the entrance of the "Officers' Quarters", or Museum Building.

The Museum Building

The large building originally known as the "Officers' Quarters" contains, in addition to the office of the Park Superintendent, a museum housing many interesting and valuable exhibits pertaining to early Acadia, as well as a fine historical library. The cornerstone of the building was laid in 1797 by Edward, Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria, while the former was Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in North America, with headquarters at Halifax. The cornerstone may now be seen in the wall of the Ship Room.

In 1935 the building was completely restored and renovated with the object of making it as fire-proof as possible. The original wood siding which formed the exterior of the building was replaced with a concrete plaster which reproduces the effect of the original walls, new entrances were provided, and the three tall chimneys which for years have been such a striking feature, were rebuilt. The original layout of the rooms has been preserved, and where interior woodwork and other fittings were replaced the original designs were faithfully reproduced.

NATIONAL AND HISTORIC PARKS BRANCH
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
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ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C.
QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
OTTAWA, 1967